

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 are amended and new claims 7-15 are added. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity, and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action objects to claim 6 because of informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments obviate the grounds for objection.

The Office Action rejects 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Patent 6,525,701 to Kang. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites that at least partial ones of scan electrodes at the active area and at least partial ones of dummy electrodes positioned with the non-display area are driven with an identical signal.

Kang goes not teach or suggest all these features of independent claim 1. Kang discloses that dummy electrodes S_{m-1} , S_{n+1} are formed in a circumference among the scan electrodes 4 and that dummy electrodes C_{m-1} , C_{n+1} are formed in the circumference among the sustain electrodes 5 (so as to form a non-effective area in which an image is not displayed). See Kang's column 7, lines 45-48. Kang further describes that the scan electrodes 4 (S_{m-1} , S_m, \dots, S_n , S_{n+1}) are insulated from one another (including dummy electrodes S_{m-1} , S_{n+1}). See column 7, lines 38-40. Kang further discloses that the sustain electrodes 5 (C_{m-1} , C_m, \dots, C_n , C_{n+1}) are divided into odd number electrodes and even number electrodes (including dummy electrodes C_{m-1} and C_{n+1}) and that the odd and even number electrodes are respectively connected in parallel. See column 7, lines 41-

45. As such, Kang does not teach or suggest that at least partial ones of scan electrodes at the active area and at least partial ones of the dummy electrodes positioned within the non-display area are driven with an identical signal as recited in independent claim 1. Kang has no disclosure of scan electrodes and dummy electrodes receiving an identical signal. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Each of independent claims 4 and 11 define patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons. That is, independent claim 4 recites a driver for driving at least partial ones of scan electrodes at the active area and at least partial ones of dummy electrodes positioned within the non-display area with an identical signal. Furthermore, independent claim 11 recites applying first signals to scan electrodes of a plasma display panel and applying second signals to dummy electrodes of the plasma display panel, where the second signals being substantially identical to the first signals. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Kang does not relate to similar signals being applied to scan electrodes and dummy electrodes of a plasma display panel. Thus, each of independent claims 4 and 11 defines patentable subject matter for at least these reasons.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 4 and 11 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-3 and 7-8 depend from claim 1. Claims 5-6 and 9-10 depend from claim 4 and claims 12-15 depend from claim 11 and therefore define patentable subject matter for at least these reasons. In addition, the dependent claims also recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

For example, dependent claim 3 recites an initializing waveform for initializing the entire cells is applied to the at least partial ones of the dummy electrodes at the non-display area and the scan electrodes at the active area during the initialization period. Dependent claim 3 also recites that the direct current voltage is applied to the at least partial ones of the dummy electrodes at the non-display area and the scan electrodes at the active area during an address period.

The Office Action appears to reference Kang's Figures 5-6 and column 2, lines 13 – column 3, line 49 for features relating to these features. However, these sections of Kang do not relate to an initialization waveform is applied to the at least partial ones of the dummy electrodes and the scan electrodes during an initialization period, and a direct current voltage is applied to at the partial ones of the dummy electrodes and the scan electrodes during the address period. That is, Kang's Figure 5 and 6 do not suggest similar type signals being applied to both scan electrodes and dummy electrodes. FIG. 6 does not even show any signals being applied to dummy electrodes. Thus, dependent claim 3 defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. See also dependent claims 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13. Each of these dependent claims defines patentable subject matter at least for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorably consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in

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better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, David C. Oren, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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